

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for opening an existing file stored on a nonvolatile memory medium, said method~~ comprising:

scanning ~~the~~ a nonvolatile memory medium to find a first memory block containing a header indicating that the first memory block is the first memory block of ~~the~~ an existing file stored on said nonvolatile memory medium; and

finding a next memory block using a next block pointer stored in the header of the first memory block, if the existing file comprises more memory blocks than the first memory block, said existing file being opened upon completion of said finding.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~9~~ 10, further comprising repeating said finding step until either all memory blocks comprising said file have been found or an error condition occurs.

11. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for opening an existing file stored on a nonvolatile memory medium, said method~~ comprising:

scanning ~~the~~ a nonvolatile memory medium in sizes of one predetermined logical block; said nonvolatile memory medium storing an existing file;

for each logical block, reading a block header containing a magic number;

testing the magic number to determine whether the logical block is a valid block or a free block, and if the logical block is a valid block, performing a comparison of a file name encoded within the block header with a specified file name to be opened;  
testing a flag within the block header to determine whether the logical block is the first block of the existing file, if the comparison produces a match; and  
returning to said scanning step with the next logical block until either the comparison produces a match or all the blocks have been tested, thereby indicating an error condition, said existing file being opened if said comparison produces a match.

12. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for opening a new file to be stored on a nonvolatile memory medium~~, said method comprising:

scanning ~~a~~ the nonvolatile memory medium in sizes of one predetermined-sized logical block; said nonvolatile memory medium for storing a new file;  
for each logical block, reading a block header containing a magic number;  
testing the magic number to determine whether the logical block is a valid block or a free block, and if the logical block is a free block, modifying its block header to comprise a valid magic number, the name of the new file to be opened, and flags indicating whether the logical block is either the first block or the last block of the new file; and  
returning to said scanning step with the next logical block until either said testing step has identified a free block or all the blocks have been tested, thereby indicating an error condition, said new file being opened if said testing step has identified a free block.

13. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method ~~for opening an existing file stored on a nonvolatile memory medium~~, the method comprising: scanning ~~the~~ a nonvolatile memory medium to find a first memory block containing a header indicating that the first memory block is the first memory block of ~~the~~ an existing file stored on said nonvolatile memory medium; and finding a next memory block using a next block pointer stored in the header of the first memory block, if the existing file comprises more memory blocks than the first memory block, said existing file being opened upon completion of said finding.

14. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method ~~for opening an existing file having a specified file name stored on a nonvolatile memory medium~~, the method comprising: scanning ~~the~~ a nonvolatile memory medium in sizes of one predetermined logical block; said nonvolatile memory medium storing an existing file; for each logical block, reading a block header containing a magic number; testing the magic number to determine whether the logical block is a valid block or a free block, and if the logical block is a valid block, performing a comparison of a file name encoded within the block header with ~~the~~ a specified file name to be opened; testing a flag within the block header to determine whether the logical block is the first block of the specified file, if the comparison produces a match; and

returning to said scanning step with the next logical block until either the comparison produces a match or all the blocks have been tested, thereby indicating an error condition, said existing file being opened if said comparison produces a match.

15. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method ~~for opening a new file to be stored on a nonvolatile memory medium,~~ the method comprising: scanning ~~a the~~ nonvolatile memory medium in sizes of one predetermined sized logical block; said nonvolatile memory medium for storing a new file; for each logical block, reading a block header containing a magic number; testing the magic number to determine whether the logical block is a valid block or a free block, and if the logical block is a free block, modifying its block header to comprise a valid magic number, the name of the file to be opened, and flags indicating whether the logical block is either the first block or the last block of said file; and returning to said scanning step with the next logical block until either said testing step has identified a free block or all the blocks have been tested, thereby indicating an error condition, said new file being opened if said testing step has identified a free block.

16-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus for opening an existing file stored on a nonvolatile memory medium, said apparatus~~ comprising:
- means for scanning the nonvolatile memory medium to find a first memory block containing a header indicating that the first memory block is the first memory block of ~~the~~ an existing file stored on said nonvolatile memory medium; and
- means for finding a next memory block using a next block pointer stored in the header of the first memory block, if the existing file comprises more than said first memory block, said existing file being opened upon completion of said finding.
21. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus for opening an existing file stored on a nonvolatile memory medium, said apparatus~~ comprising:
- scanning means for scanning a ~~said~~ nonvolatile memory medium to find a first memory block containing a header indicating that the first memory block is the first memory block of an ~~the~~ existing file; and
- finding means for finding a next memory block using a next block pointer stored in the header of the first memory block, if the file comprises more than the first memory block, said finding means operating iteratively until either all memory blocks of which the existing file is comprised have been found or an error condition occurs, said existing file being opened if all memory blocks of which said existing file is comprised have been found.
22. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus for opening an existing file stored on a nonvolatile memory medium~~ comprising:

scanning means for scanning ~~a the~~ nonvolatile memory medium in sizes of one

predetermined logical block; said nonvolatile memory medium for storing a new file;

reading means for reading a block header containing a magic number for each logical block;

testing means for testing the magic number to determine whether the logical block is a valid

block or a free block, and if the logical block is a valid block, performing a comparison

of a file name encoded within the block header with a specified file name to be opened;

and

checking means for checking a flag within the block header to determine whether the logical

block is the first block of the existing file, if the comparison performed by said testing

means produces a match,

said scanning means operating iteratively on until either the comparison produces a match or

all the blocks have been tested, thereby indicating an error condition, said new file

being opened if said comparison produces a match.

23. (Currently Amended) An Apparatus ~~for opening a new file to be stored on a nonvolatile memory medium, said apparatus~~ comprising:

scanning means for scanning ~~the~~ a nonvolatile memory medium in sizes of one

predetermined logical block, said nonvolatile memory medium for storing a new file;

reading means for reading a block header containing a magic number for each logical block;

testing means for testing the magic number to determine whether the logical block is a valid

block or a free block, and if the logical block is a free block, modifying the block

header to comprise a valid magic number, the name of the file to be opened, and flags

indicating whether the logical block is either the first block or the last block of the new

file,

said scanning means operating iteratively on next logical blocks until either the testing means has identified a free block or all the blocks have been tested, thereby indicating an error condition, said new file being opened if said testing means has identified a free block.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~An nonvolatile memory apparatus, said~~ apparatus comprising:  
nonvolatile memory medium means for storing information in the form of a file;  
scanning means for scanning memory blocks of the nonvolatile memory medium means to find a first memory block of a selected file, the first memory block containing a header having an indicator that indicates that it is the first memory block of the selected file;  
and  
finding means for finding a next memory block using a next block pointer stored in the header for selected files having more than one memory block, said selected file being opened upon completion of said finding.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said finding means operates iteratively until either all memory blocks of the selected file have been found or an error condition occurs.